The Usages of the Word "IT" in the English Language

By Peter David Smith

"IT" is a word in the English Language.

"IT" is spelled "IT".

There are nine usages of the word "IT" in the English language.

These nine usages are:

1. What you want. *(Freud's "Pleasure Principle")*
2. What the problem is.
3. How to solve the problem and get what you want. *(Freud's "Reality Principle")*
4. The Meaning of Life (can be different things for each individual).
5. Methods of release from tension and stress.
6. The general FLOW of our feelings.
7. An archetypal thing or situation. Something Iconic.
8. The logical explanation or solution of a puzzle.
9. An arbitrary ego stance. An expression of individuality by assuming a position on things.

It might be argued that an English speaking person might describe a random, unnamed and genderless thing as "it" even when the thing appears to have no significance whatsoever. For instance "It's Thursday", "It's a donkey" or even "It's not important". These examples are relaxed forms indicative of one of the nine usages but at one or two steps removed. In the example "It's Thursday" the date or time is the important thing, "Thursday" is merely an instance of that. The date or time is slightly removed from how to get what you want, if that depends on the date. Similarly, the example "It's a donkey" is really concerned with solving the problem of "What is that blurry shape in the distance?" or something like that. "The example "It's not important" is again about problem solving, which often involves classifying things into what you want and what you don't want while discarding neutral items along the way. Neutral items will always exist in all of these examples as the dialectic inevitably refers to its own triangular structure which is everywhere.

So we have identified the nine important usages of the word "it", along with a lesser, relaxed, usage which merely identifies a neutral trivial extension of one of the nine. These lesser examples can be:

1. Some trivial thing associated with what you want but not the thing itself.
2. Some trivial thing associated with a problem but not the problem itself.
3. A trivial extended description of a problem solving exercise. As in "It's going to take a while".
4. Something obliquely related to the "Meaning of Life".
5. A trivial artifact related to the means of release. Such as a tennis ball or a wine bottle.
6. Minor side effects of the FLOW of our feelings.
7. Something which, while not iconic in itself, is to do with an iconic thing.
8. A thing which is not the solution but either a metaphor or a metonymy for the process of arriving at that solution.
9. Some statement tangentially related to an arbitrary choice we've made, such as the phrase "it's not" which creates an ambiguity about whether "not being something" is what is, or whether "what it is" is something different to the thing being looked at.

Therefore the nine usages are each shadowed by lazy, relaxed forms of the same nine things or their overlooked side effects. The structure of nine categories, into which the applications of the word "it" falls, is caused by the infinite chaos at the centre of reality as it explicates itself into specific, ordered forms of repeating dialectical speculative moments. In other writings I have referred to these nine as "The Nine Centres".

Numbers three, six and nine are different varieties of the "Speculative Moment" in G.W.F. Hegel's description of The Dialectic. This is because these are the three ways in which paradox can be assimilated into an acceptable reality.

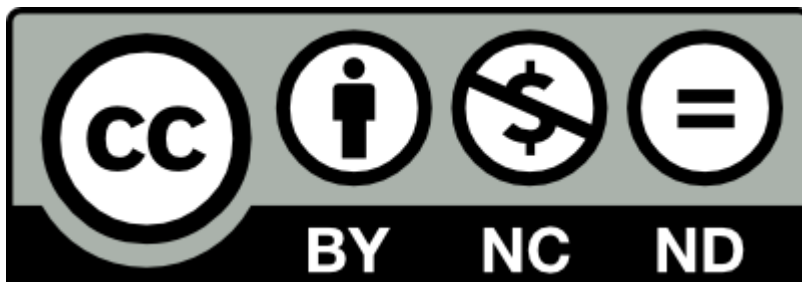**The Three Types of "Speculative Moment":**

1. Freud's "Reality Principle". Where the negative is tolerated in order to achieve the positive.
2. The "Flow" referred to in the Positive Psychology movement. Where the action of working hard at the meaningful things and the opposite action of acknowledging the need to relax periodically and "take it easy" combine together into a continuous flow and a sense of "being in the zone".
3. The individualistic position taken by the ego when the ego, having understood the intuitive knowledge coming from the recognition of archetypes and having also understood the counter-intuitive knowledge coming from the use of logic, is able to be in control of the situation and apply a unique style which can be recognised as the personality of the individuated self.

That's it.

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